

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following claims replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1 (Currently amended). A clamp for connecting bars, and comprising a body defining at least one pair of prismatic guides for respective said bars; and

means for locking said bars inside said guides;

characterized in that said body is defined by four separate plane sheet metal plates arranged parallel, spaced and facing in ~~two~~ pairs of two, and connected substantially along the edges of said body;

said guides each being defined by a pair of aligned seats formed along respective sides of two respective facing plates, said plates each having a first and second opposite side extending along said edges of the body and shaped to fit to respective sides of the adjacent plates having a complementary shape.

2 (Original). A clamp as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that said plates are laser cut.

3 (Currently amended). ~~A clamp as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that said plates each have a first and a second opposite side extending along said edges of the body and shaped to fit respectively to complementary sides of the adjacent plates.~~

A clamp for connecting bars, comprising:

a body having at least one pair of prismatic guides for engaging said bars and means for locking said bars inside said guides; and

characterized in that said body is defined by four separable, planar sheet metal plates arranged parallel, spaced apart and facing each other in pairs of two to define respective pairs of facing plates, and connected substantially along the edges of said body in pairs of two to define respective pairs of first and second adjacent plates;

wherein each of said first and second adjacent plates comprises a first and a second end, said ends being opposite to each other;

each of said ends being configured with complementary, engagable shapes with respect to said opposing end, and

one of said ends of said first adjacent plate engaging said respective complementary opposing end of said second adjacent plate to form said edges;

said guides each being defined by a pair of aligned seats formed along respective sides of two respective facing plates.

4 (Currently amended). A clamp as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that said plates are asymmetrical C-shaped, and each ~~comprise~~ comprises two portions of different lengths extending from opposite sides of said seat;

said seat being defined by a back edge and by respective inner edges of said portions.

5 (Original). A clamp as claimed in Claim 4, characterized in that the longer of said portions terminates with a tooth facing inwards of the seat and having a side separated from said back edge by a distance equal to the length of a first side of the respective said bar, and an end surface separated from the inner edge of the other portion by a distance at least equal to the length of a second side of the bar.

6 (Currently amended). A clamp as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that said plates are identical in ~~twos~~ each pair of two.

7 (Currently amended). A clamp as claimed in Claim 6, characterized in that the two identical plates of each pair are adjacent to each other, with the relative seats on opposite sides of said body.

8 (Currently amended). A ~~graphic~~ folding-gluing machine for manufacturing paper articles comprising:

- a supporting structure;
- a conveying surface for successively conveying blanks; and
- a number of ~~tools~~ blank processing tools connectable to said supporting structure, over said conveying surface, by means of a number of bars;
- a number of clamps for connecting said bars, each clamp comprising a body defining at least one pair of prismatic guides for respective said bars; and

means for locking said bars inside said guides;

characterized in that said body is defined by four sheet metal plates arranged parallel and facing in ~~two~~ pairs of two, and connected substantially along the edges of said body;

said guides each being defined by a pair of aligned seats formed along respective sides of two respective facing plates.

9 (New). A clamp as claimed in Claim 3, characterized in that said plates are asymmetrical C-shaped, and each comprises two portions of different lengths extending from opposite sides of said seat;

said seat being defined by a back edge and by respective inner edges of said portions.

10 (New). A clamp as claimed in Claim 9, characterized in that the longer of said portions terminates with a tooth facing inwards of the seat and having a side separated from said back edge by a distance equal to the length of a first side of the respective said bar, and an end surface separated from the inner edge of the other portion by a distance at least equal to the length of a second side of the bar.

11 (New). A clamp as claimed in Claim 3, characterized in that said plates are identical in each pair of two.

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12 (New). A clamp as claimed in Claim 11, characterized in that the two identical plates of each pair are adjacent to each other, with the relative seats on opposite sides of said body.